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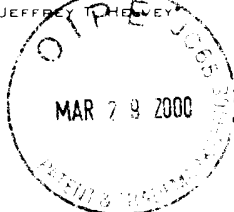
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**REGISTERED PATENT AGENTS



March 29, 2000

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 789-5507

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/227,742; Filed: January 8, 1999
For: **Method for Increasing Viability and Transformation Efficiency of
Bacteria During Storage at Low Temperatures**
Inventors: F. R. Bloom *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4770003/RWE/GER

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Fee Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(p) (*in duplicate*);
2. A listing of the cited documents on Form PTO-1449 (2 sheets);
3. A copy of each of the cited documents;
4. Our Check No. 27074 in the amount of \$240.00 to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p)); and
5. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are

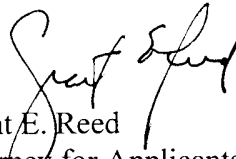
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
March 29, 2000
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necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant E. Reed", is written over the printed name.

Grant E. Reed
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,264

Enclosures